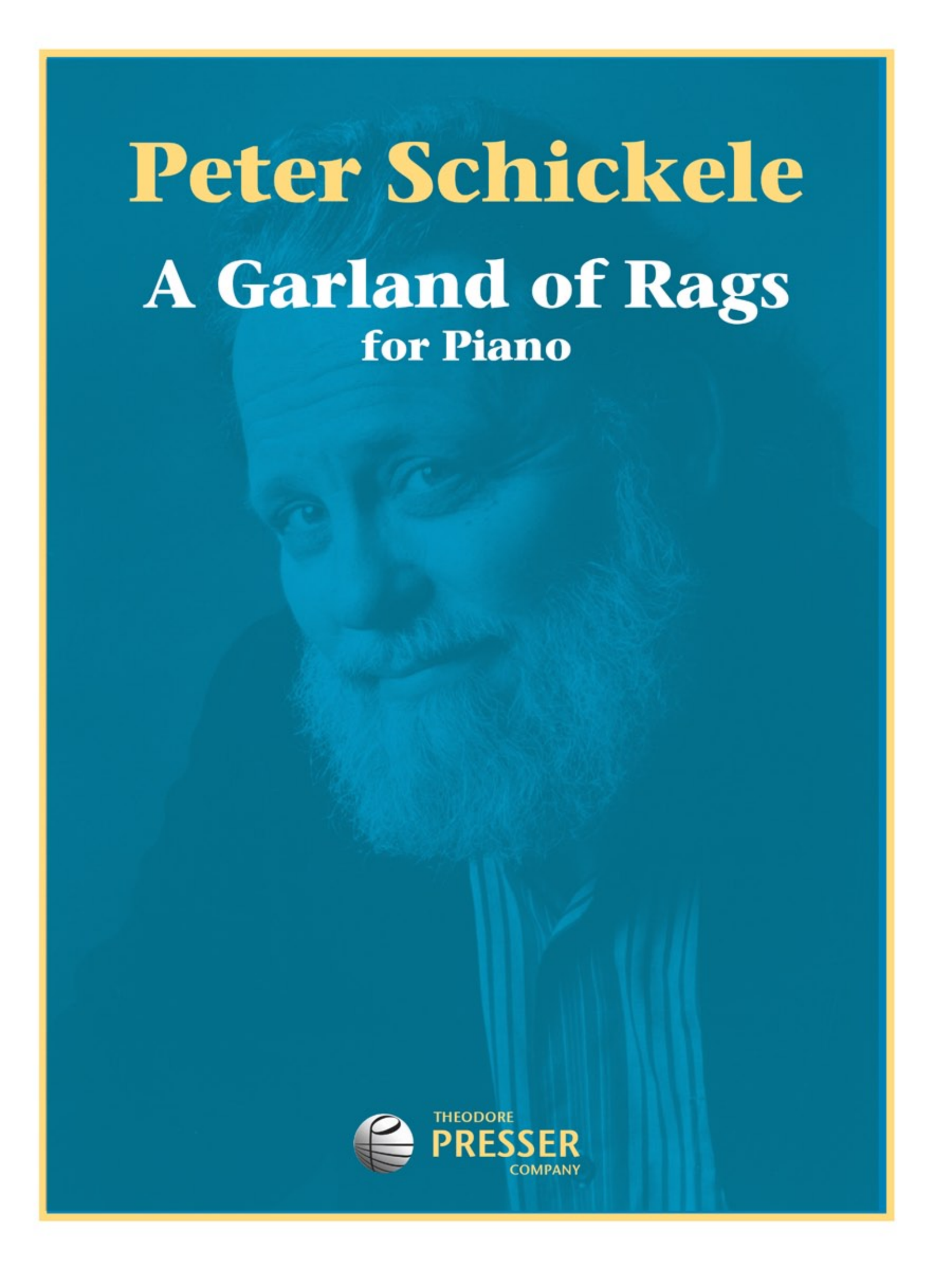
Peter Schickele

A Garland of Rags

for Piano



THEODORE PRESSER COMPANY

Peter Schickele

A Garland of Rags
for Piano

I was just as interested as was everyone else when Joshua Rifkin brought out his recording in 1970 of Scott Joplin's piano rags played at the tempos Joplin intended, rather than at the more frantic tempos favored in the 1920's and 30's. But the greatest influence on my own rags was a recording by Joe "Fingers" Carr, featuring many pieces at faster tempos, and even a waltz in ragtime.

The first piece in this collection, entitled "Planetary Motion," is dedicated to Peter van de Kamp, an astronomy professor at Swarthmore College when I was a student there. In the days before VCR's and DVD's, he had a collection of Charlie Chaplin movies, which he would sometimes show for the college community, accompanying the films on piano.

The second number is for my daughter Karla; "Jamaroona" is the name she gave one of her favorite dolls.

I spent all or part of several summers between 1959 and 1964 in Aspen, Colorado, and "Aspen Afternoons" reflects my favorite time of day: the late afternoon, when the golden sunlight shone on the mountains, the buildings, and the dusty roads, many of which were not yet paved. For reasons I can no longer recall, this piece is dedicated to my brother David, whose nickname was Wald.

Spike Jones had a comedy band which flourished in the 1940's and 50's, and his greeting was often "Hello, music lovers." At the age of about nine or ten, I became a passionate fan. The ending of this piece was the City Slickers' sign-off.

When he was very little, my son had a blanket he called Baba, which he cherished until there was hardly anything left to cherish. So the title of this last number is actually a pun.

Some of these rags were composed and played long before being written down; the date at the last double bar is February 2, 1972.

THEODORE PRESSER COMPANY

A Garland of Rags

for Piano

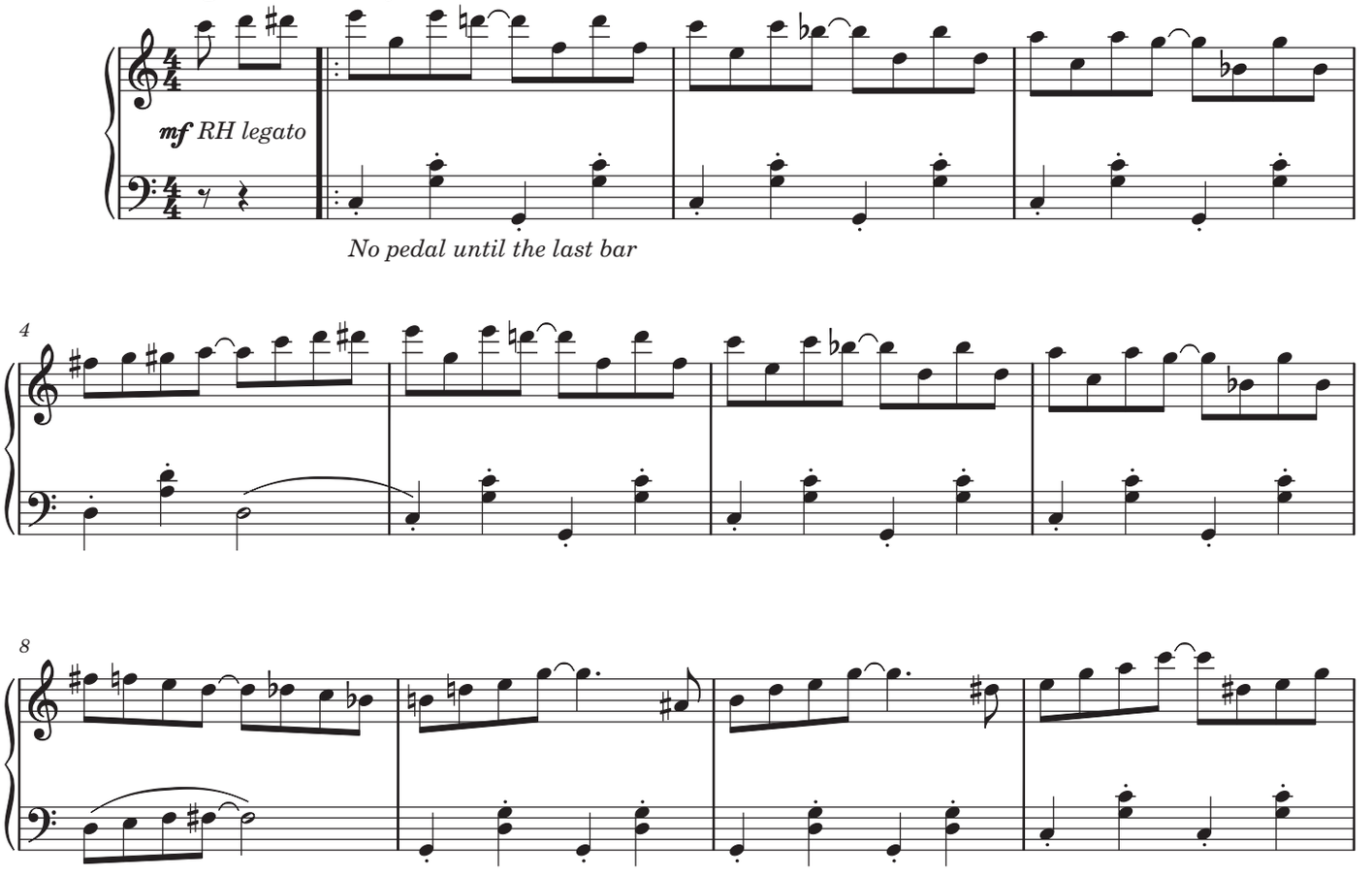
Duration: c. 7'

for Peter van de Kamp

1. Planetary Motion

PETER SCHICKELE

Bright and steady (♩ = c. 168)



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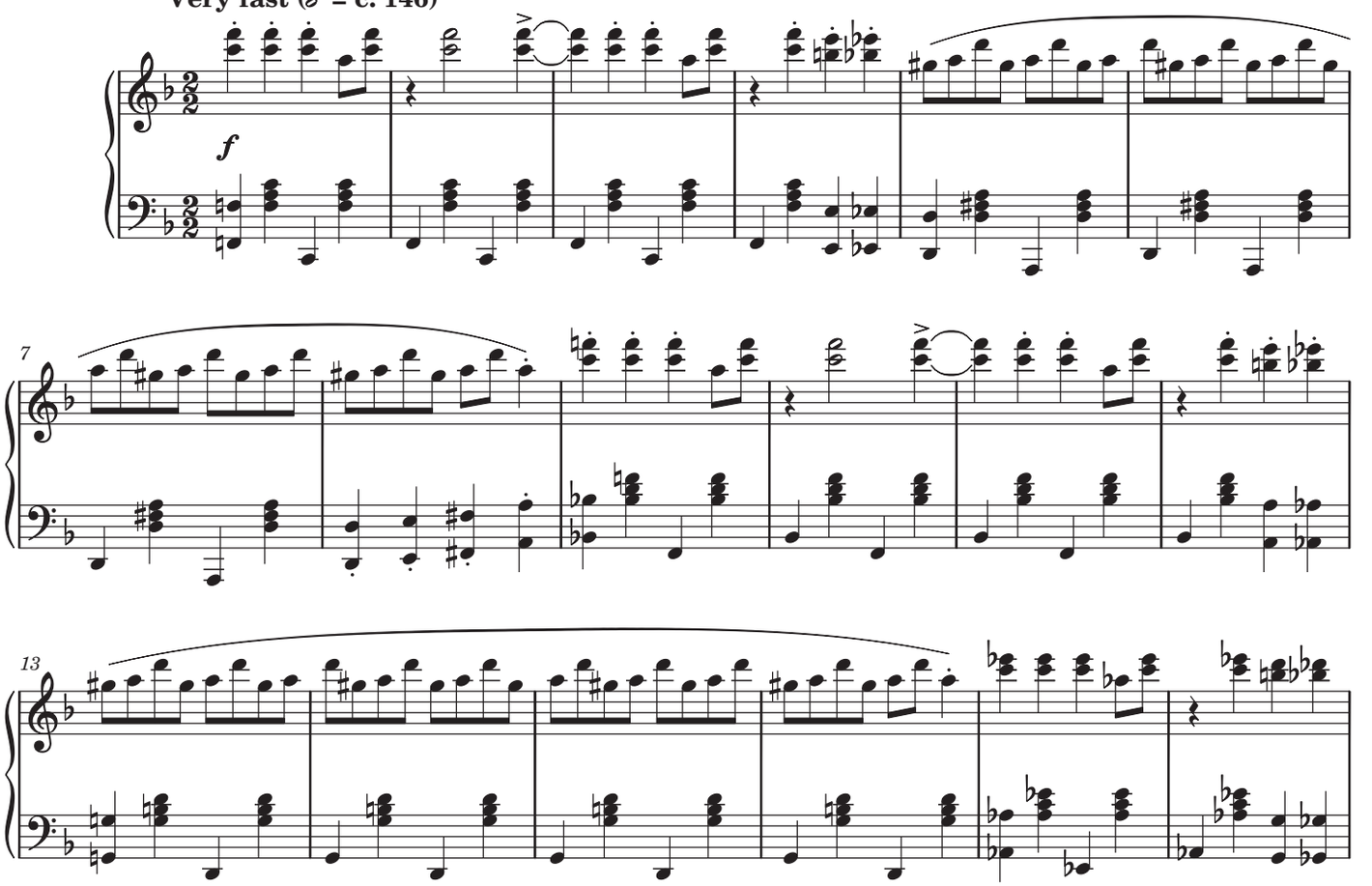
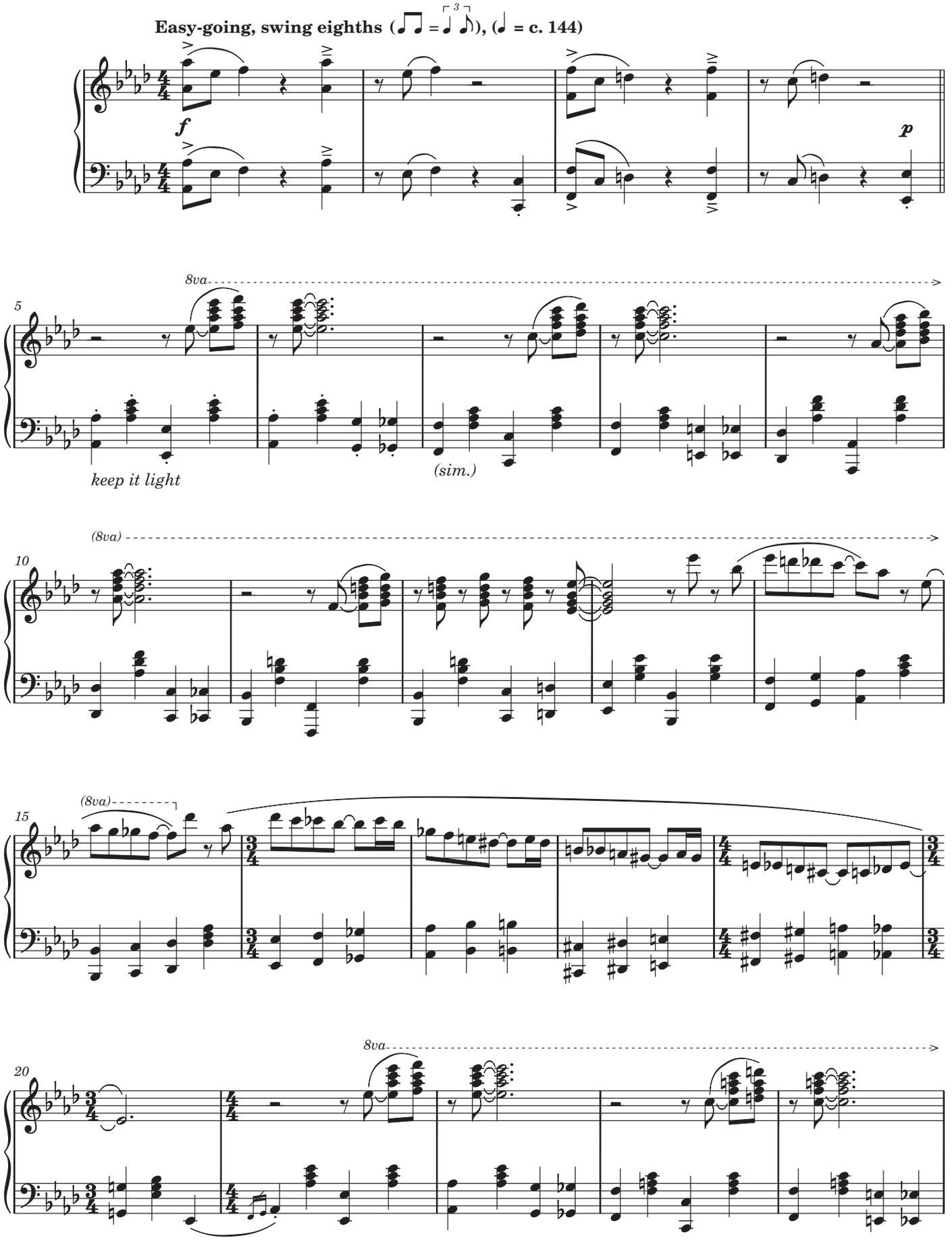
2. Jamaroona Rag

Very fast (𝅗𝅥 = c. 146)



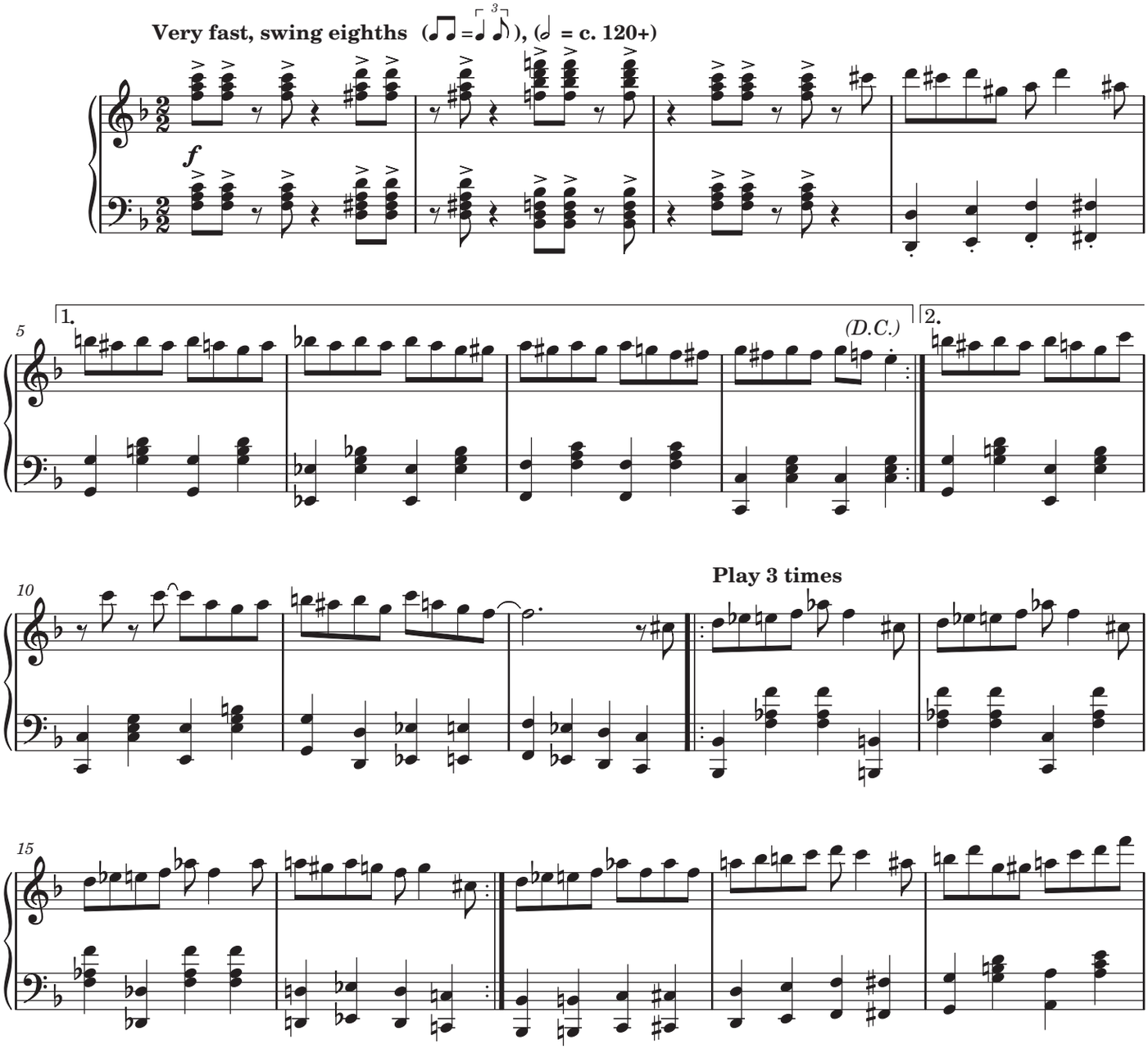
for Wald

3. Aspen Afternoons

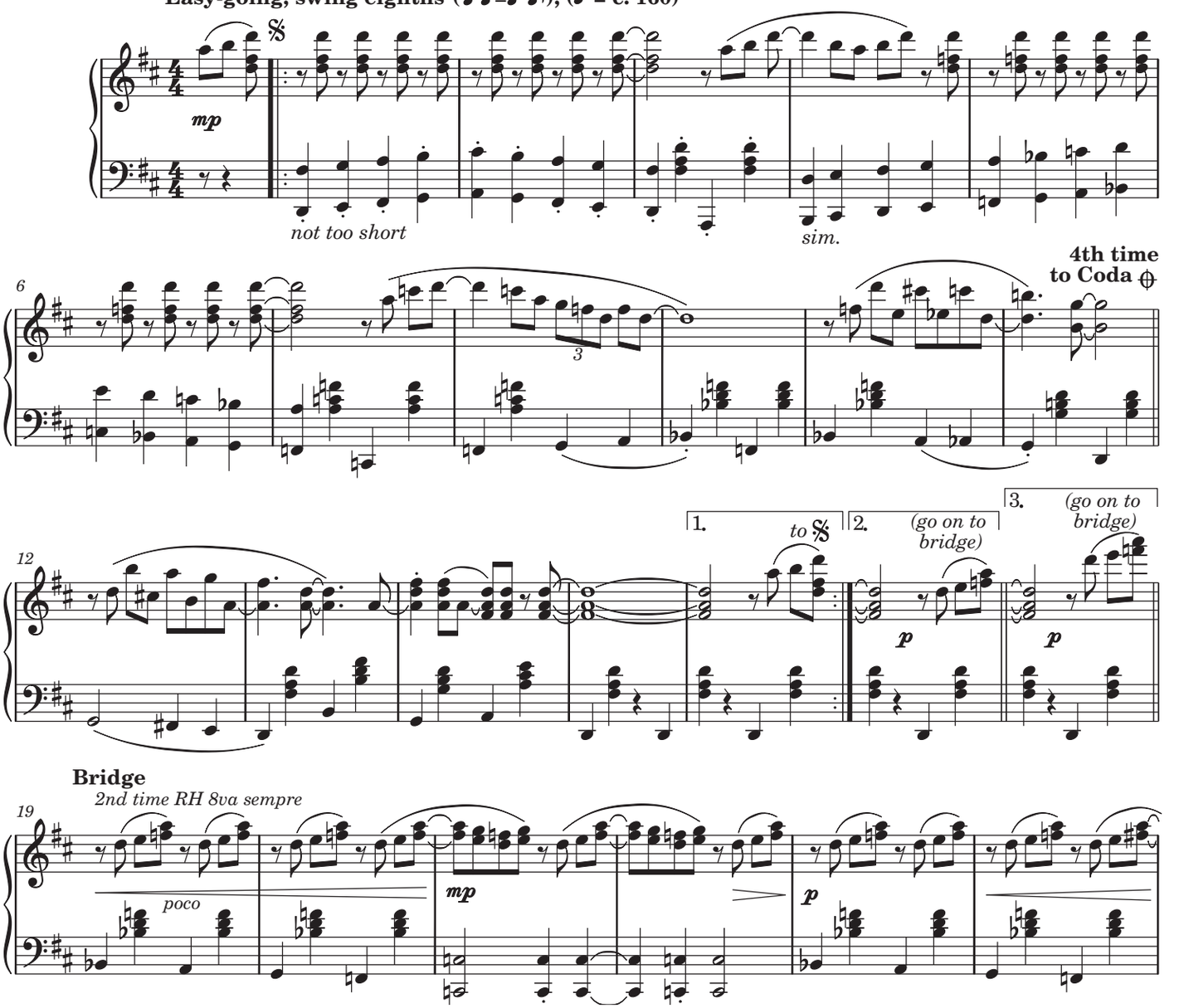


in memoriam Spike Jones

4. The Music Lover



for Matthew

5. Baba Rag

Easy-going, swing eighths (♫=♩³♪), (♩ = c. 160)